

Last Moves Before The Clash

"NEW DEVELOPMENTS HAVE BEEN REVEALED IN THE FINAL PREPARATIONS OF THE OPPOSING COMMANDS. SECRECY IS NO LONGER POSSIBLE."

ALLIES MAKE READY FOR ATLANTIC STRUGGLE HEAD

BY OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE clash of battle in Europe is close upon us; so close that the timing of our attack may be less important than the immediate reactions to its impact. The whole future course of the war may depend upon its outcome and, for this reason, it is necessary to appreciate in true perspective how both sides are preparing for the coming struggle.

In the last few days several new developments have been revealed in the final preparations of the opposing commands. They had been kept secret as long as possible for obvious reasons, but there comes a time when secrecy is no longer possible, as Mr. Churchill once explained when telling of other invasion plans.

These latest moves could be classified in two clear-cut columns—Allied and Axis.

ON OUR SIDE WE HAVE:

(1) The temporary closing of the ON-SURSEY frontier.

(2) The warning to the French people to move away from all target areas without delay.

(3) The official reversal of internal landing practices by all the Allied armies both at home and in Africa.

(4) Soviet announcements that they are all set to deliver a symmetrical major offensive when their Allies attack.

(5) The "near" pattern bombing of the Allied Air Forces.

(6) The passing of convoy escort on a scale never before reported.

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ON MUSSO'S ISLAND NOW



British troops patrol all that is left of a street in Pantelleria searching for Axis elements shortly after the island's surrender.

Now we must also feel safe in our belief that Turkey is strong enough to deter the Axis from attempting to swing across her territory and attack that flank.

Not technique specialists in that kind of manoeuvre under the impulse that Germany feels compelled to occupy any neutral country concerned to save it from Allied invasion.

My second interpretation of the affair is that we must feel satisfied that, should Hitler make the mistake, Turkey can and will hold its own at least long enough to allow the Allies to come to her aid.

As a factor in the clash of tomorrow, it is a development of some importance.

I am by no means suggesting that Turkey is preparing to come into the war on our side, but I certainly see every reason to believe that the intention to support her efforts with us in the spirit and to the letter.

In other words, Nazi machinations have failed completely to keep her away from her friendship with us.

She possesses, however, should be borne in mind: Now that it is no secret that our Middle East army is being retrained in the desert, it is a fact that both armies—huge, fierce, well-trained and equipped—must be ready to move in a manner that bodies not known to Germany, Hitler may well find it a very difficult task to anticipate.

He may hope by that to anticipate the moves of the British, the Balkans or that it is impossible, but it is a fact that the Soviet Black Sea Fleet, which has been moved to the Bosphorus, is a powerful force in the Black Sea.

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Services Will Free Girls To Marry

ARMISTICE BRIDES TO BE DEBACLED FIRST

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

GIRLS in the A.T.S., W.A.A.F. and W.R.N.S. who want to get married will be listed among the "First Priority" categories for demobilisation when the war in Europe ends. The Ministers who are now drawing up the nation's demobilisation programme are anxious that these girls shall be able to settle down as soon as possible.

The part they will play in restoring the national birth rate of our greatest post-war problems is an important one. But if they are demobilised they will have to provide proof that bona-fide arrangements have been made for the wedding.

WIVES TOO

Service girls who are already married will be demobilised at the same time as these "Armistice Brides."

The Ministers are anxious that service girls should not be at a disadvantage as compared with girls who have been on munitions.

Not all the A.T.S., W.A.A.F. and W.R.N.S. will be demobilised when the war is over.

It is likely that these three forces will continue, in peace time, to constitute an important part of our Defence Services, either on voluntary or call-up basis.

Some of the later categories to be enrolled, especially the younger girls, will be asked to stay on until the military machine has switched over from war-time to peace-time gear.

London

Passes Its Book Target

By 5 o'clock yesterday afternoon the Ministry of War Production had passed its book target.

The target for the year 1943 was 1,533,187, said Mr. B. Hutchings, assistant director of salvage and recovery at the Ministry of Supply.

The target for the year 1942 was 1,533,187, said Mr. B. Hutchings, assistant director of salvage and recovery at the Ministry of Supply.

The target for the year 1941 was 1,533,187, said Mr. B. Hutchings, assistant director of salvage and recovery at the Ministry of Supply.

The target for the year 1940 was 1,533,187, said Mr. B. Hutchings, assistant director of salvage and recovery at the Ministry of Supply.

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The target for the year 1931 was 1,533,187, said Mr. B. Hutchings, assistant director of salvage and recovery at the Ministry of Supply.

The target for the year 1930 was 1,533,187, said Mr. B. Hutchings, assistant director of salvage and recovery at the Ministry of Supply.

The target for the year 1929 was 1,533,187, said Mr. B. Hutchings, assistant director of salvage and recovery at the Ministry of Supply.

The target for the year 1928 was 1,533,

German Wives Write About Raids

'WE ARE DYING OF FEAR'

DUTCH MOCK Cities Are Now Like NAZI BAN Battlefields ON RADIOS

New York, Saturday. **THE** Nazis have completely failed in their efforts to stop the Dutch people listening to British and Allied broadcasts.

The German overlord has confiscated nearly 1,000,000 wireless sets and tried to install fear of death or the concentration camp into the Dutch people, but the radio sets are still listening and in ever-increasing numbers and with ever-increasing interest.

Recently, when a Dutchman who had been in the front line of the war was "wiped out" by patriots in Utrecht, a secret Dutch radio station was at once on the air, bravely broadcasting details of the slaying as a warning to all traitors.

For weeks the Gestapo vainly hunted not only for the slayers, but the underground radio station, and all the time the mysterious announcer was taunting them.

He even described a visit to the Gestapo headquarters in Amsterdam with full details of the building's interior, even to the pictures on the walls and the dirt on the tiles—strenuously accentuating the latter—A.P.

Italian Leader Turned Anti-Fascist

Moscow, Saturday. **IT** was because he started an anti-Fascist movement in the Italian youth organization that Viduonni, former fascist youth leader and secretary of the Italian youth organization in Russia, is gradually learning the truth about the devastating RAF raids on his home towns.

He is now allied to have directed and united the activities of all the opposition groups in the large Italian cities.

The groups were working for a new course in Italian policy corresponding to the country's interests.

Many members of the youth organization have been arrested in Rome, Naples and other cities—Ritter.

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Lease-Lend Nears £3,000 Million Mark

New York, Saturday. **SAYING** that President Roosevelt has signed a Supplemental Appropriation Act providing for a further sum of £2,250 million for Britain, and that a substantial increase in supplies to Russia is also being discussed, the "New York Times" wrote today:

"Although Lease-Lend expenditures have run at an average of 12 per cent of our total war expenditure, they have already passed £2,250,000,000 by the end of April."

The Supplemental Appropriation bill amounts to nearly the total of the loans made to all our Allies during the last year.

Lease-Lend is now one of the principal factors that have thrown the Axis on the defensive both east and west, and forced Axis spokesmen to speculate on where they will first be hit.

Lease-Lend alone will fall, instead of the other way round, on the shipping difficulties that have hampered the flow of Lease-Lend material worldwide.

Reports from Norway yesterday says Reuter confirmed that 30 German soldiers in the Narvik district were shot recently for attempting to escape to Sweden—Ritter.

Prisoners Will 'Spring Clean' Tunisia

Thousands of German and Italian soldiers who fought desperately against the Allies in North Africa are now helping the British Pioneer Corps as prisoners of war, being sent to clear the Tunisian battlefield.

They are at present employed on roads and handling supplies, but will shortly be engaged in clearing the Tunisian battlefield.

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Air Onslaught On Italy

When the fortunes of our Mediterranean are at stake we must not let our nerves stand in the way. Very subtle and dangerous is the Anglo-Saxon campaign directed against our moral and material strength. By thousands of direct and indirect acts this propaganda is penetrating and spreading like poison gas.

Meanwhile, invasion talk was growing with Axis reports of Allied shipping and battle concentrations off Sicily.

Six more Italian provinces were yesterday reported to have been proclaimed war zones, and the entire Adriatic coast is now a military zone.

The Italian Cabinet met during the morning under the presidency of Mussolini and discussed the effects of Allied bombing.

No doubt, they also had under consideration the warning broadcast by the German radio that Italy's war industries and lines of communication would be the first targets.

Reuter reported that the morning yesterday and again advised that the Italian people to get out of their cities and other war areas.

The radio said that Italians were deserting in large numbers from the front. The radio also stated that those who failed to do so would be considered traitors.

RAF heavy bombers of the Eastern Mediterranean Command joined in a series of attacks on the Sicilian coast.

RAF long-range fighters also joined in a series of attacks on the Sicilian coast.

All the Middle East RAF aircraft returned.

Figures Prove Allied Sea Mastery

OVER THREE MILLION TROOPS TRANSPORTED

THREE MILLION soldiers have been transported to their destinations by sea since the outbreak of the war.

Only 1,248, but 5,000,000 tons of Axis shipping was sunk and 3,000,000 tons was damaged up to March, 1943.

These and other remarkable figures disclosing Britain's command of the sea and the immense power of the Royal Navy had the Merchant Navy since the fall of 1942.

Two enemy battalions, 14 cruisers, 87 destroyers and many other warships were destroyed.

But Italian warships failed to sink one of our warships since Italy entered the war.

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U-Boat Picks Up Supplies

THE Battle of the Atlantic is developing in the Allies' favour in a truly remarkable fashion. Latest operations against the U-boats were described yesterday by Mr. Elmer Davis, U.S. Director of War Information, as "amazingly successful, so successful during the last few weeks that it seems almost too much to hope that this can keep up at the present rate."

Broadcasting this news of what has been regarded as the most vital battle of the war, Mr. Davis said over New York Radio:

"The number of submarines operating in the Atlantic has been considerably reduced. Unquestionably many have been sunk, but it is possible that others may have been withdrawn to guard the coasts of occupied Europe against the expected invasion."

"NOTHING HAPPENING" "Wherever they go, whether back home or to the bottom of the sea, they have been very ineffective lately—which means that more and more ships are being sunk, and that the number of submarines is steadily increasing."

Mr. Davis declared that the past few weeks have given a tremendous impetus to our victory in the Atlantic.

"It looks as if the German command is not so sure of themselves as they once were in their own ability to carry out any serious action."

When the British and Americans are going to strike in Western Europe, they will be striking at the heart of the German war effort.

"Talk of a defensive war has not gone down very well in Germany. They are not so sure of themselves as they once were."

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"The only U-boat is coming out of the Atlantic, and it is going to be a very long time before it can be replaced."

U.S. Planes Fly Japs In Burma

MERCILESS pounding of the Japanese bases in Burma by the United States planes is reported in yesterday's High Command communiqué from the War Department.

Great damage was done by B-24 Liberators bombed railway yards at Mawlaik, 35 miles south-west of Meiktila. It was reported that the Japanese were being driven out of the area.

A large building used as a warehouse was destroyed, and two large buildings were damaged.

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Save Coal, Gas, Electricity, Paraffin and help—SPEED THE DAY WHEN WE CAN ALL ENJOY ALL WE WANT OF WHAT WE LIKE INCLUDING QUICK QUAKER OATS

—Gannon the world over for its appetizing cream flavour and nutritive goodness—rich in vital elements, including the most precious Vitamin B. Noted, too, for its purity, economy and ease of preparation.

Let's hope his mistress uses Puritan!

PURITAN gives you double satisfaction—All you need to get things really clean! Every tablet lasts longer, so you're always sure of real economy as well as extra help for the work you get Puritan. And it's always gentle on the hands.

PURITAN SOAP

214 tablets (18 oz.) 22 coupons (not sample when mail-ordered)

Continued From Page One

DUSSELDORF BLASTED

There is hardly one building in the whole of the Old Strasse, nearly a mile long, which has not been hit.

Among the war plants hit are the great Rheinfelder Werke, making iron, steel tubes, submarine mine cases, etc.

The J.G. Schmitz plant, making large torpedoes and torpedoes, has been very severely damaged.

But there is so much industrial damage that it will take some time to make a complete assessment of it.

Dusseldorf is a most important port centre, both for rail and riverborne traffic. It is one of Germany's largest inland ports, and many dockside buildings were hit in the last attack.

Railway damage is severe. All the main sheds in the great Dusseldorf-Berndorf marshalling yard have been burnt out.

The main railway station, however, has not been damaged by fire. Oberkasseler station has had many buildings gutted.

There have been many direct hits on railway lines.

TODAY'S RADIO

HOME—7:00—News, 7:15—O'Connell, 7:30—The Great Dictator, 7:45—The Great Dictator, 8:00—The Great Dictator, 8:15—The Great Dictator, 8:30—The Great Dictator, 8:45—The Great Dictator, 9:00—The Great Dictator, 9:15—The Great Dictator, 9:30—The Great Dictator, 9:45—The Great Dictator, 10:00—The Great Dictator, 10:15—The Great Dictator, 10:30—The Great Dictator, 10:45—The Great Dictator, 11:00—The Great Dictator, 11:15—The Great Dictator, 11:30—The Great Dictator, 11:45—The Great Dictator, 12:00—The Great Dictator, 12:15—The Great Dictator, 12:30—The Great Dictator, 12:45—The Great Dictator, 1:00—The Great Dictator, 1:15—The Great Dictator, 1:30—The Great Dictator, 1:45—The Great Dictator, 2:00—The Great Dictator, 2:15—The Great Dictator, 2:30—The Great Dictator, 2:45—The Great Dictator, 3:00—The Great Dictator, 3:15—The Great Dictator, 3:30—The Great Dictator, 3:45—The Great Dictator, 4:00—The Great Dictator, 4:15—The Great Dictator, 4:30—The Great Dictator, 4:45—The Great Dictator, 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